

MENTOR MICHIGAN DIRECTORY

OTTAWA COUNTY

This listing for Ottawa County is organized first by programs that serve the entire county, and second by programs serving a specific city within this county.

The cities are listed alphabetically.

COUNTY-WIDE

Arbor Circle Mentoring Services

Janelle Burden

Arbor Circle

1115 Ball Ave NE

Grand Rapids, Michigan 49505

Phone: (616) 451-3001

Fax: (616) 451-8779

Email: jburden@arborcircle.org

Program Description:

Arbor Circle Mentoring Services assists at-risk youth through asset development, skill building, and community service opportunities. Youth ages 10 through 20 are paired one-on-one with caring, supportive, and positive adult volunteers who make a difference in the lives of the youth they serve. Volunteer mentors are expected to make a one year commitment, which involves three to four hours per week at a time that is convenient for the mentor and mentee.

Barnabas Ministries, Inc.

Michelle Bechler

High Risk Youth Mentoring

10500 Chicago Drive, Suite 40

Zeeland, Michigan 49464

Phone: (616) 748-8435

Fax: (616) 748-8451

Email: michelle@barnabasmin.org

www.barnabasmin.org

Program Description:

Barnabas Ministries matches Christian adults with high-risk middle or high school students. The program involves one-on-one mentoring focused on positive youth development, life skill development, interaction between the youth and their community, and friendship. Volunteer mentors are expected to make a one year commitment, which involves approximately two hours per week during afterschool, evening, or weekend hours.

COUNTY-WIDE CONTINUED

Big Brothers Big Sisters of Greater Grand Rapids

Paul Miller

805 Leonard NE

Grand Rapids, Michigan 49503

Phone: (616) 451-2021

Fax: (616) 774-0487

Email: bbbsgr@dablodgett.org

Program Description:

Big Brother Big Sister of Greater Grand Rapids matches volunteers who are high school age and older, with elementary and middle school children. Through community-based programs mentors and mentees meet two to three hours each week at a time that is convenient for both. Through school-based programs, mentors and mentees meet on school grounds for less than one hour each week. Volunteer mentors are expected to make a six month commitment, which involves one to four hours per week—depending upon the program.

Big Brothers Big Sisters of the Lakeshore

Nicole Schwarz

1358 Terrace Street

Muskegon, Michigan 49442

Phone: (231) 728-2447

Fax: (231) 728-2448

Email: nicole@bbbslakeshore.org

Program Description:

Big Brothers Big Sisters of the Lakeshore matches children ages five through 12 with caring, screened role models. The programs provide one-on-one matches in a community-based or school-based setting. The mentors and mentees participate in a variety of activities that help the children grow into more caring, confident, and competent people. Volunteer mentors are expected to make a two year commitment, which involves two to three times per month during afternoon, evening, and weekend hours.

COUNTY-WIDE CONTINUED

ExperienceSeniorPower.com

Tony Fama

Maria Madeline Project, Inc.

24630 Scotia Boulevard

Oak Park, Michigan 48237

Phone: (248) 398-6438

Fax: (248) 692-0391

Email: tony.fama@experienceseniorpower.com

Program Description:

Through ExperienceSeniorPower.com, children and senior citizens learn computer and job skills together. Children receive an adult role model through these "adoptive grandparent" relationships and seniors have the opportunity to contribute their life experience and knowledge. This program includes one-on-one, group, team, and e-mentoring activities. Senior volunteers are expected to make a one year commitment during morning, afternoon, or weekend hours.

Higher Horizons Youth Mentoring

Cori Whalen

Child and Family Services of Western Michigan, Inc.

412 Century Lane

Holland, Michigan 49423

Phone: (616) 396-2301

Fax: (616) 396-8070

Email: cwhalen@cfswm.org

www.cfswm.org

Program Description:

Higher Horizons Youth Mentoring provides youth ages five through 15 from single parent and foster care homes with a caring adult role model. This is a community-based, one-on-one mentoring program. Volunteer mentors are expected to make a one year commitment, which involves two hours per week during flexible hours that meet the mentor and mentee's needs.

COUNTY-WIDE CONTINUED

The Journey Youth Mentoring Program

Lisa Bottomley

Ottawa County Michigan State University Extension

333 Clinton

Grand Haven, Michigan 49417

Phone: (616) 846-8250

Fax: (616) 846-0655

Email: lbottoml@msu.edu

<http://35.8.128.5/msuewc/ottawa>

Program Description:

The Journey Youth Mentoring Program reduces the frequency and severity of offenses committed by delinquent youth, ages eight through 17, in Ottawa County. Volunteers aged 18 and over are screened and trained to mentor youth referred to the program by probation officers or court counselors. The youth must indicate an interest in having a mentor in order to be matched. During weekly visits, matches are encouraged to participate in mutually enjoyable activities such as sports, arts and crafts projects, plays and concerts, museums or historical sites, and going out to eat. Volunteer mentors are expected to make a one year commitment, which involves two hour a week. This program is a collaborative effort between Michigan State University Extension and Ottawa County Family Court/Juvenile Services.

Michigan Youth Leadership Forum

William Milzarski

320 North Washington Square, Suite 250

Lansing, Michigan 48913

Phone: (877) 499-6232

Fax: (877) 499-6232

Email: MilzarskiW@Michigan.gov

www.MYLF.org

Program Description:

The Michigan Youth Leadership Forum involves 35 high school students that have disabilities. The students are integrated with other students and adults with disabilities to learn leadership, social skills, and citizenship. The program involves one-on-one, team, and peer mentoring and takes place during one week during the summer. The program is managed by the Michigan Commission on Disability Concerns. Volunteers are expected to commit to one full week in the summer and follow up activities.

COUNTY-WIDE CONTINUED

Volunteer Centers of Michigan

Judy Tymowicz

1048 Pierpont, Suite 3

Lansing, Michigan 48911

Phone: (517) 492-2430

Fax: (517) 492-2444

Email: tymowicz@mivolunteers.org

Program Description:

Volunteer Centers recruit, train, and place volunteers in nonprofit organizations throughout their service area. They are inclusive, serving all nonprofits and residents—they do not limit their service to a particular issue, group of people, or type of activity. Michigan's Volunteer Centers are all prepared to assist mentors find organizations where they can volunteer. Volunteer Centers often take a leadership position in convening organizations and individuals to find solutions to complex community issues. They live their belief that people enrich their own lives and strengthen their communities through volunteer service.

Wrap Around Youth Mentoring Program

Tesha Wehrmeyer

Children's Advocacy Center

280 E. 8th Street

Holland, Michigan 49423

Phone: (616) 393-6123

Fax: (616) 393-0918

Email: twehrmeyer@cac-ottawa.org

Program Description:

Wrap Around serves youth who are at risk of out-of-home placement or who are at risk of their current placement collapsing. Youth are referred to Wrap Around by caseworkers at the Family Independence Agency, Community Mental Health, or Ottawa County Family Court. After completing six hours of training, mentors are matched with elementary, middle, or high school youth for a one-on-one mentoring relationship. Mentors are required to make a one year commitment, which involves two hours per week during afternoon or evening hours. Mentors are also encouraged to attend monthly Wrap Around meetings.

GRAND HAVEN

CASA of Ottawa County

Gina Merritt

Children's Resource Network

710 Chicago Drive, Suite 250

Holland, Michigan 49423

Phone: (616) 396-8151

Fax: (616) 396-4349

Email: gmerritt@crn.nu

Program Description:

The CASA Program advocates for children who are in the court system because of abuse and neglect. CASA gathers information and makes recommendations to judges for services and support for these children. Volunteers provide one-on-one mentoring services. They are expected to make a commitment of at least two years, which involves three to four hours per week at a time that is convenient for the mentor and mentee.

STARS (Sharing Time to Achieve Reading Success)

Karen Cotton

Grand Haven Area Public Schools

Mary A. White Elementary School

1400 Wisconsin A

Grand Haven, Michigan 49417

Phone: (616) 850-5751

Fax: (616) 850-5710

Email: cottonk@ghaps.org

Program Description:

STARS is a language arts program that helps kindergarten and second grade students bring their reading skills up to grade level so they experience more success in the classroom. Volunteer mentors work one-on-one with a student one day a week for 25 to 40 minutes. A mentoring session usually consists of the mentor reading to the student or the student reading to the mentor, a workbook activity, and an educational game. Lesson plans are provided for the mentors. The mentors bring their desire to share their love with children and reading skills. Volunteer mentors are expected to commit to one school year, from October to May, which involves less than one hour per week during school hours.

HOLLAND

CASA of Ottawa County

Gina Merritt

Children's Resource Network

710 Chicago Drive, Suite 250

Holland, Michigan 49423

Phone: (616) 396-8151

Fax: (616) 396-4349

Email: gmerritt@crn.nu

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Core City Christian Community Development Associat

Wayne Colman

Core City C.C.D.A.

21 East 16th. Street

Holland, Michigan 49423

Phone: (616) 355-0071

Fax: (616) 355-7471

Email: wcolman@corecityholland.com

Program Description:

The Core City Christian Development Association's Learning Enhancement Achievement Program (LEAP) provides one-on-one tutoring for middle school students who are struggling and at risk of dropping out of school. The organization also runs a training program for adults to help them find employment or increase their skills to improve career opportunities. Volunteers are expected to make a three month commitment, which includes two to eight hours per month during morning, afternoon, evening, or weekend hours.

HOLLAND CONTINUED

Faith in Youth Partnership

Kerry Wiersma

Good Samaritan Ministries

513 East 8th Street, Suite 25

Holland, Michigan 49423

Phone: (616) 392-7159

Fax: (616) 392-5889

Email: kwiersma@goodsamministries.com

www.goodsamministries.com

Program Description:

The Faith in Youth Partnership provides mentor-based programming by pairing a church volunteer with a middle school youth. Activities include one-on-one mentoring, tutoring clubs, group mentoring, e-mentoring, and drop-in afterschool activities. Volunteer mentors are expected to make a three month to one year commitment, depending upon their assignment. Volunteers typically serve four to eight hours per month during afterschool, evening, or weekend hours.

Faith In Youth Partnership - The Shield

Courtney Battjes

712 Apple Avenue

Holland, Michigan 49423

Phone: (616) 396-6526

Fax: (616) 396-8513

Email: courtneymaria21@hotmail.com

Program Description:

The Faith in Youth Partnership's Shield program serves middle school youth in the East Holland area. Activities include one-on-one mentoring, tutoring assistance and a drop-in center. Volunteer mentors are expected to make a one year commitment, which involves one hour per week at a time that is convenient for the mentor and mentee.

HUDSONVILLE

CASA of Ottawa County

Gina Merritt

Children's Resource Network

710 Chicago Drive, Suite 250

Holland, Michigan 49423

Phone: (616) 396-8151

Fax: (616) 396-4349

Email: gmerritt@crn.nu

Program Description:

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JENISON

CASA of Ottawa County

Gina Merritt

Children's Resource Network

710 Chicago Drive, Suite 250

Holland, Michigan 49423

Phone: (616) 396-8151

Fax: (616) 396-4349

Email: gmerritt@crn.nu

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WEST OLIVE

CASA of Ottawa County

Gina Merritt

Children's Resource Network

710 Chicago Drive, Suite 250

Holland, Michigan 49423

Phone: (616) 396-8151

Fax: (616) 396-4349

Email: gmerritt@crn.nu

Program Description:

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ZEELAND

Faith in Youth Partnership

Kerry Wiersma

Good Samaritan Ministries

513 East 8th Street, Suite 25

Holland, Michigan 49423

Phone: (616) 392-7159

Fax: (616) 392-5889

Email: kwiersma@goodsamministries.com

www.goodsamministries.com

Program Description:

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MENTORING COLLABORATIVE

Mentoring Collaboratives are community-wide resources for mentoring programs, people looking to become mentors, and youth who want a mentor or need access to mentoring services. A Collaborative serves as a coordinating body for mentoring activities in their service area, which could be city-wide, county-wide, or regional in focus. They provide awareness and education around mentoring issues and work to ensure that all age groups are represented and provided with mentoring services. Collaboratives are made up of the mentoring programs in their service area, and they meet regularly to share best practices, learn about new trends in the field, partner on projects, and learn from one another.

Ottawa County Mentoring Collaborative

Lisa Bottomley
4H Youth Mentoring Agent
MSU Extension Journey
333 Clinton Street
Grand Haven, Michigan 49417
Phone: (616) 846-8250
Fax: (616) 846-0655
Email: lbottoml@msu.edu

MENTOR MICHIGAN VISTA

The Mentor Michigan VISTA program supports Mentor Michigan's goal of recruiting 10,000 new mentors for Michigan youth. Through this program, 25 individuals will be serving full-time throughout Michigan to support the development of youth mentoring programs by:

- Identifying and securing resources to support the development and sustainability of mentoring programs.
- Recruiting mentors and connecting them with effective programs serving youth.
- Developing partnerships with business, faith-based and nonprofit organizations, education institutions, and government.
- Increasing public awareness about mentoring and the positive outcomes associated with it.
- Providing training and support for mentoring programs.

The Mentor Michigan VISTA program is managed by the Connect Michigan Alliance.

Ottawa County Michigan State University Extension

Lisa Bottomley
333 Clinton Avenue
Grand Haven, Michigan 49417
Phone: (616) 846-8250
Email: lbottoml@msu.edu